

Joint Declaration

of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Ukraine

Preamble

The Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Ukraine convened for the second round of the Joint consultations held on 7 October 2024 in Uzhhorod, Ukraine.

Recalling the *Roadmap for joint actions between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine* signed on 11 April 2024 in Michalovce, and **reaffirming** shared commitment to strengthening political dialogue and good-neighbourly relations and addressing common challenges in a spirit of mutual respect, trust, and cooperation, both Sides emphasize the importance of fostering closer ties in support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, and across political, economic, energy and humanitarian spheres.

Additionally to the above mentioned *Roadmap*:

- **both Sides welcome** the outcome of the First Global Peace Summit (June 15-16, 2024). The Slovak Republic confirmed readiness to contribute to the implementation of specific points of the Peace Formula by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and participate in the relevant thematic conferences, as well as in the Second Peace Summit, with the aim to restore a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine in accordance with the norms and principles of the international law.
- **the Slovak Republic reiterates** its firm and continued support for Ukraine's integration into the European Union. Both sides welcome the adoption of the negotiating framework and the holding of the first Intergovernmental Conference on the accession of Ukraine. The Sides understand that the process towards membership is and will remain merit-based, fully dependent on the objective progress achieved by Ukraine.
- **the Slovak Republic welcomes** the Joint security commitments concluded between the European Union and Ukraine that enshrine a multilateral, long-term commitment by all 27 EU Member States to provide Ukraine with broad support in all key areas including support of Ukraine on its path to the membership.

Both Sides decided to deliver or complete following cross border flagship projects within the deadlines stemming from the above-mentioned *Roadmap* or to explore possibilities to do so even sooner.

1. Energy Security

Recognizing the strategic importance of energy security, the Governments commit to enhancing cooperation in this field and to implement by the end of 2028 the reconstruction and modernization of the Mukachevo-Velké Kapušany electrical interconnector, with the goal of completing the Lemešany - Vol'a - Velké Kapušany - Mukachevo project by 2032.

Emphasizing their determination to deepen economic ties and foster trade relations, particularly in the context of Ukraine's reconstruction.

Recognizing the strategic importance of cooperation on diversification of gas and oil supplies to Ukraine and the Slovak Republic and the region of South Eastern Europe. The preservation of active utilization of Ukrainian and Slovak gas and oil transportation infrastructure in line with the EU policy can significantly contribute to the creation of an Eastern European Energy Hub with the potential to strengthen energy security of not only both countries but also in the wider region.

Recognizing that there is a need to strengthen cooperation in the field of nuclear energy with a view to diversifying nuclear fuel suppliers and using alternative nuclear fuel in nuclear power plants. Both Sides continue to work actively on exchanging information on this topic.

2. Cross-Border Cooperation and Security

Both Sides will make efforts to finalize the text of the Agreement between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine on cooperation in carrying out the check of persons means of transport and goods at the shared border crossing points and submit it to the European Commission for consideration.

Taking into account the plans and the existing level of development of the railway infrastructure of both countries, **the Sides consider** it expedient to continue the development of railway passenger connections between our countries through Chop, as well as to instruct the carriers (UZ and ZSSK) to start working on the issue of organizing railway connections to Uzhhorod (time slots, joint ticket, needed infrastructure upgrades), taking into account the planned completion of the construction of the Chop-Uzhhorod European track in 2025 and further development of 1435 mm gauge, which is part of Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) near the border between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine.

Both Sides started working on the implementation of an alternative railway connection Kyiv-Košice with a change at Chop station between trains using 1520 mm gauge infrastructure (Kyiv-Chop) and 1435 mm gauge infrastructure (Chop-Košice), with a view to extend the line to Bratislava and other European countries in 2024 - 2025.

The Sides continue to modernize the border crossing point Uzhorod-Vyšné Nemecké from the Slovak and Ukrainian Sides of the border.

Both Sides confirm the appropriate level of cooperation established between the law enforcement agencies of the Slovak Republic and Ukraine to protect the rights and freedoms of citizens of both countries. Taking into account current challenges and threats, in order to further improve such cooperation, the Sides note the need to continue the dialogue aimed at concluding an Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of the Slovak Republic on Cooperation in Combating Crime.

The Sides welcome the signing of the Implementing Protocol between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and on the implementation of the Agreement between Ukraine and the European community on the readmission of persons, which is another step towards deepening Slovak-Ukrainian cooperation in the field of migration.

The Sides note the high-level cooperation between the border guard agencies and express interest in its further expansion and deepening.

3. Economic and Trade Cooperation

Both Sides confirmed that further strengthening of economic relations between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine will be mutually beneficial for the economies of both countries, as well as for further consolidation of the Slovak-Ukrainian partnership, which is based on shared values and interests.

In this context **both Sides emphasized** that the Joint Commission on economic, industrial and scientific-technical cooperation between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine is one of the important tools for strengthening bilateral relations, cooperation in the economic sphere, a key platform for implementation joint initiatives and strategic projects.

The Sides agreed to hold the Sixth session of the Joint Commission on economic, industrial and scientific-technical cooperation between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine and a Slovak-Ukrainian Business Forum on 7 November 2024 in Košice.

Both Sides underline the importance of establishing a stable legal framework to attract investments and ensure the protection of businesses operating across borders. The Slovak Republic is committed to playing an active role in Ukraine's reconstruction through participation in strategic recovery projects and fostering mutually beneficial economic partnerships.

4. Cooperation in the Field of Education

Based on the joint meeting of the Governments of the Slovak Republic and Ukraine in Michalovce on 11 April 2024, **the Sides prepared** a contractual document – a Memorandum of Understanding/Action Plan, which will cover the following areas: support for Ukrainian students and teachers in the Slovak Republic in the study and teaching of the Ukrainian language and literature; language education for teachers and the exchange of experiences; cooperation in processing information about temporarily relocated students and teachers from Ukraine; exchange of data regarding education and agencies mediating the education of Ukrainian students in Slovak secondary schools; direct cooperation between preschools, general secondary schools, vocational education, and training institutions, especially in the field of inclusive education; support and promotion of cooperation projects between Slovak and Ukrainian higher education institutions within the framework of the EU financial instruments; cooperation in the field of innovative activities of higher education and scientific institutions.

With a shared conviction about the need to intensify and deepen mutual communication and cooperation, and respecting the Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in the field of education for 2005-2008 (valid until the signing of a new contractual document), **both Sides signed** a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

5. Cooperation in the Field of Youth and Sports

The Ukrainian Side expressed the appreciation to the Slovak Side for the support and assistance provided to Ukrainian sport teams, athletes, young people who temporarily stay in the Slovak Republic due to the Russian armed aggression against Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Side expressed the interest in receiving the support from the Slovak Side in the implementation of the reforms in the sport sphere and post-war restoration of sports infrastructure.

Both Sides agreed to continue cooperation in the sphere of youth policy.

The Ukrainian Side expressed the interest in receiving expert and technical assistance from the Slovak Side in developing a mechanism for the implementation of the EU Youth Guarantee Initiative; implementing reforms in the youth sectors and restoring youth infrastructure; establishing exchange programmes for young people from Ukraine and the Slovak Republic.

6. Cooperation in the Field of Healthcare

Both Sides reaffirm their commitment to enhance cooperation in the healthcare sector through the development and implementation of targeted initiatives. These include cooperation in the development and implementation of rehabilitation programs, in the frame of actual possibilities, for Ukrainian citizens affected by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, cross-border cooperation in the healthcare, implementation of Slovak experience in the process of adapting Ukrainian legislation to EU healthcare standards, cooperation on digitalization in the healthcare sector.

7. Coordination and Implementation

The Sides established

the Deputy Prime Minister Office on behalf of the Slovak Republic

the Ministry of Economy on behalf of Ukraine

as the coordination contact point for regular high-level consultations and to set up working groups to ensure the effective implementation of agreed initiatives on an organised manner. Both Sides will monitor a progress on these projects through regular meetings and consultations.

Both Sides agree to continuously work together on identification of concrete projects of recovery in Ukraine, which could be potentially supported by the Slovak Side and would involve a Slovak entity in their realisation. **Both Sides also agree** to identify further cross-border strategic projects that would enhance the connectivity of Ukraine to the EU via the Slovak Republic.

Conclusion

The Slovak Republic and Ukraine reaffirm their commitment to further strengthening of bilateral political cooperation, including support of Ukraine and the efforts aimed at bringing comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine, as well as continuing close cooperation, ensuring that joint initiatives in areas such as energy, economy, and humanitarian cooperation are effectively implemented. The Sides will maintain ongoing dialogue to achieve their shared objectives and further strengthen their strategic partnership.

Slovak and Ukrainian **Sides agreed to sign**, apart from this Declaration, the following bilateral agreements

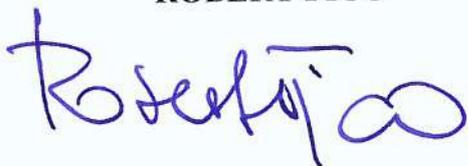
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Food Industry

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
- Implementing protocol between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the implementation of the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the Readmission of Persons

Uzhhorod, 7 October 2024

Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic

ROBERT FICO



Prime Minister of Ukraine

DENYS SHMYHAL

